FREEMASONRY.

"Yet berth the utgile of manere, the underwimmynge of the mynde that ys ferryynge; and the soudrye berrhynge, sandrrlycke, and utgile of ferrynynge, at maughte and mynynge, and the rrme manere at farrannge at thynge for manere use; bendlye, bindlynge, and bullynge of all thynge, and at other thynge that maeke gulte to manere." * * *

"Maeckann bacrhe always, ye cherche rrme, from rrme to rrme, rrmmynge rrrlle to maughte sacke at ye serrrium as generallycke mygge be sacrlle: they bacrhe upon backe sacke allene as upsille be farmalle yff they cannot yse rrglle handes. Maeckann lane rinber other mynglynge, and ye may not determine be; for gude meate and rrm, bringynge rinber other to be earb, berrh always lane the mere as thay be marr good."—*From a Manuscript in the hand-writing of King Henry the Sixth.*

MEETING OF THE EPIPHANY-CHAPTER OF THE FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH, will take place on Tuesday, the 9th January, at eight o'clock in the evening.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE BUILDER."

SIR,—Having just met with the subjoined very minute detailed list of the Grand-masters of the English Freemasons, permit me through one of your columns to ask, as I take a great interest in all historical and other matters relating to Freemasonry, upon what authority such a catalogue rests, how are the dates authenticated, and where lie the records confirming an circumstantial a document?

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

A Freemason of the Church.

A.D.
597 Austin the Monk.
680 Bennet. Abbot of Wirral.
858 St. Swithin.
872 King Alfred.
900 Ethred, Prince of Mercia.
928 Athelstane.
957 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbery.
1041 Edward the Confessor.
1066 Gondulph, Bishop of Rochester.
1100 Henry I.
1135 Gilbert de Clare, Marquis of Pembroke.
1155 The Grand Master of the Templars.
1199 Peter de Colechurch.
1216 Peter de Rupibus. Bishop of Winchester.
1272 Walter Giffard, Archbishop of York.
1307 Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter.
1327 Edward III.
1357 William à Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester.
1375 Simon Langham, Abbot of Westminster.
1377 William à Wykeham. again.
1400 Thomas Fitz Allen, Earl of Surrey.
1413 Henry Chichely, Archbishop of Canterbury.
1443 William Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester.
1471 Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury.
1500 The Grand Master of the Order of St. John. Henry VII. Patron.
1502 Henry VII.
1515 Cardinal Wolsey.
1530 Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex.
1543 John Touchett, Lord Audley.
1549 Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset.
1552 John Poynet, Bishop of Winchester.
1560 Sir Thomas Sackville.
1567 Sir Thomas Gresham, in the South.
—— Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, in the North.
1580 Charles Howard, Earl of Effingham.
1588 George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon.
1603 King James I., Patron.
—— Inigo Jones. Grand Master.
1618 William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke.
1625 King Charles I.
1630 Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby.
1633 Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel.
1635 Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford.
1636 Inigo Jones, again.
1643 Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans.
1666 Thomas Savage, Earl of Rivers.
1674 George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.
1679 Henry Bennett, Earl of Arlington.
1685 Sir Christopher Wren.
1698 Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond.
—— Sir Christopher Wren, again.
1717 Anthony Sayer, Esq.
1718 George Payne, Esq.
1719 Dr. Desaguliers.
1720 George Payne, Esq., again.
1721 John, Duke of Montagu.
1722 Philip, Duke of Wharton.
1723 The Duke of Buccleugh.
1724 The Duke of Richmond.
1725 The Earl of Abercorn.
1726 William O'Brian, Earl of Inchiquin.
1727 Lord Coleraine.
1728 Lord Kingston.
1729 Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk.
1731 Lord Lovel.
A.D.
1732 Anthony Brown, Viscount Montacute.
1733 The Earl of Strathmore.
1734 The Earl of Crawford.
1735 Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth.
1736 John Campbell, Earl of London.
1738 H. Bevigen, Marquis of Carnarvon.
1739 Lord Raymond.
1740 The Earl of Kinton.
1741 The Earl of Morton,
1742 John Ward, Lord Dudley and Ward.
1745 James, Lord Cranstown.
1747 Lord Byron.
1752 John, Lord Carysfort.
1754 Marquis of Carnarvon, again.
1757 Sholto, Lord Aberdour.
1762 Washington Shirley, Earl Ferrers.
1764 Lord Blaney.
1767 Henry, Duke of Beaufort.
1772 Robert Edward, Lord Petre.
1777 George, Duke of Manchester.
1782 H.R.H. Frederick, Duke of Cumberland.
1790 H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales.
1813 H.R.H. Augustus Frederic, Duke of Sussex, at the Union.
1843 The Earl of Zetland, Acting.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS IN THE SURVEYORS' DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—The advertisement in your paper of Saturday relative to the Appointment of Officers in the Surveyors' Department of the Commissioners of Sewers, &c., induces me to trouble you with a few observations.

You are perhaps not aware that the Commission for Westminster, &c., extends to the parish of Hampton, embracing all the land affected by the tide or by outragious waters from the uplands, excepting, indeed, that portion of the river Brent which was interfered with by the execution of the Grand Junction Canal as permitted by the Act establishing the Company, and the parish of Chiswick, which is not noticed in the commission.

The difficulties and expense which the commissioners have had to contend with in consequence of the extension of the town, have arisen from the deficiency or inapplicability of the powers to prevent improperly constructed sewers, and from inattention to the prospective wants of the public on ground yet unbuilt upon. Previously to the year 1806, there only one surveyor, with no clerks of the works or other assistance; there was no descriptive plan shewing the district upon which the commissioners exercised their jurisdiction till that made by Mr. Potter in 1816, and this shewed only the main lines of drainages. The establishment was, in 1807, increased, and there has been a vast extension of the brick sewers, and many of the watercourses have been corrected and improved by inverted brick arches, the outlay since the year 1824 has exceeded 500,000*l.* expended by the public, and a very much larger sum by individuals.

When it is considered that the commissioners have of late never exerted their authority or supervision beyond the border of the Counties Creek district, which includes only a small portion of the parish of Fulham, and hardly any of Hammersmith, it must be admitted that the additional officers advertised for are essentially requisite, and that the attainments of a practical architect, versed in engineering, are called for, as well as those of an honest clerk of the works, whose labours should be extended with assiduity over the distant district at least.

It may be pardonable to mention that the aid of the first of these officers should be applied to the prospective improvement of the existing sewerages, and in calculations as to the future demands of the whole of the districts now surveyed by the commissioners, those lying beyond them, and also those into which the commission does not at present extend. In looking at the condition of this populous and wealthy metropolis, and its noble river, polluted as they are by sullage waters, we must not cast away the hope that the views of one of our most enlightened builders, Mr. Thomas Cubitt, and of several of the commissioners, will be entertained, so far at least as that the practicability of conducting all the sullage waters of the north side of the river eastward and westward by deep tunnels, without interfering with it; shall be seriously and fully considered. The proposition being that all the present sewers shall discharge themselves into deep under-ground courses tunnelled through the blue clay stratum till they reach the flat lands eastward and westward, when they shall issue into deeper reservoirs, from which, by engine work, they may be elevated so as to be capable of distribution for agricultural purposes, and the residuary, if any, carried forward, so far as not to be likely to contaminate the waters.

It may be supposed that this plan is too visionary to be carried into execution, and that the expense, even if it were practicable, would be too enormous to be tolerated. A little reflection may probably induce us to think the: nether of these circumstances really attends the idea.

The superficies drained, whether of land, streets, or houses, is easily ascertained. On the northern side of the Thames the largest surface is that of the lands having a current into the Fleet river; the dimensions of the arched sewer at Blackfriars'-bridge have always been found adequate, and there is no floodgate or flap against the entrance of the tide which flows into it. The next largest surface, eastward of the summit of Hyde-park, &c., is drained by the King's Scholars'-pond Sewer, which is of moderate capacity and unequal current, and issuing into the Thames, being pouded up every tide. Let us suppose that this last-mentioned sewer is intercepted where it crosses Piccadilly, and by some judicious contrivance made to pass its contents into a new deep sewer tunnelled through the blue clay, and which deep sewer shall receive all the other sewers it shall meet in its eastward course to be continued under Piccadilly, the Haymarket, and Charing-cross, where it shall be, at least as to the catrados of its arch, not less than twenty feet below lowest water-mark; at this point it should receive another sewer constructed in some proper line so as to be calculated to convey all the waters of the low lands of Westminster, Pimlico, and Chelsea.

From this point, with increased dimensions, but with a duly regulated current, this main and tunnelled sewer should proceed eastward, still through the blue clay, parallel to the river, avoiding St. Paul's, and whether under houses or not, to Aldgate, thence under Whitechapel-road to Mile-end, and so onward in Plaistow Meads, passing under the Poplar canal and the river Lea. In the neighbourhood of Plaistow, deep, spacious, and substantial reservoirs should be formed, capable of receiving the contents of this main sewer, and from which, by the operation of powerful engines, the same may be elevated and distributed either in the shape of liquid or as compressed manure upon the lands, the liquid portion being delivered into channels formed at such an elevation as would irrigate the meadows and at length communicate with the river, should any surplus water remain unused.

It is conceived that the branch sewer which would enter at Charing Cross would be capable of relieving all the district east of the Counties Creek, lying below high water, and perhaps be equal to take a portion of the Counties Creek sewer and of the Ranelagh in the event of an overflow, which the sewer about to be described as running westward could afford a discharge for, viz.

That of a new sewer, to commence at Knightsbridge, and thence to run westward at a moderate depth below the surface, but still with an increasing current, till it reached some selected spot, probably about Brook Green, whence its contents might be capable of distribution over the low lands, or even the upper agricultural lands northward and westward of the reservoirs, which should be formed similar but of less capacity than those described to be executed in the neighbourhood of Plaistow.

A map has been prepared by Messrs Milner and Braithwaite, the engineers, shewing all the deep wells in the vicinity of the metropolis, and which very distinctly describes the strata which would be to be intersected by the formation of these sewers, and of course facilitate the operation by the information it will afford, and by the avoidance of the reservoirs which are in existence.

It is a matter of tolerably easy calculation, as to what the magnitude of those sewers, and as to what their currents, as they proceed, should be, for it is obvious that if the blue clay is everywhere deep enough to admit of a rapid current, the amplitude of the sewer itself may be less in proportion than it would be were the current sluggish; information, however, is not at this moment at hand, but the matter is open for the commissioners of the four divisions, namely, the commissioners for Westminster, for Finsbury, the City, and the Tower Hamlets, to exect their faculties, and for their officers to enter upon the consideration of the importance and value of the improvement.

With regard to the expense, the present moment is favourable for the borrowing of money, as is evidenced by the high price of the public funds. An issue of a special parliamentary loan, secured upon the rates of the above-mentioned metropolitan districts, would in all probability be cheerfully met, the property assessable is so ample. Besides, the labour of the country is now little employed, and nothing is required but what our national resources furnish. The property of individuals and the public comfort will be so greatly benefited by the plan, that an